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STONE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

# 1949.

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# STONE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

## Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

To the Chairman and Members of the Stone Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Nineteen hundred and forty-nine was, as far as the health and welfare of the rural district of Stone, an exceptionally favourable year. No serious epidemic has occurred in the area and our births exceed our deaths by a larger figure each year.

It will be seen from the report that the provision of water, sewage disposal and the problem of housing the people is under constant review. The full effect of the plans made this year will not be seen until perhaps 1952, but our task will not be complete until every house has a piped water supply, modern lighting and heating and reasonable sewage disposal. In the country with houses so widely separated as in Stone, this is neither cheap nor easily accomplished.

The atmospheric pollution research at Meaford continues and a separate report has been published.

I have received from the Superintendent of the Power Station every help and encouragement, and I am sure that a friendly liaison of this sort will lead to a better understanding of the problems of atmospheric pollution, which we are both anxious to solve.

I wish to record my thanks to Mr. Hawkes and his assistants for their ever-willing and efficient help, and to your good selves for your interest and support.

Yours sincerely,

C. GLYNNE OWEN.

Medical Officer of Health.

### STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

**Medical Officer of Health :**

C. Glynne Owen, M.R.C.S.(Eng.), L.R.C.P.(London).

**Sanitary Inspector and Meat Inspector :**

W. Hawkes, C.R.S.I., who is also Surveyor and Inspector under the Housing and Petroleum Acts, Rodent Officer.

**Assistants to Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor :**

B. K. Lovatt. A. Holmes

**Clerk in the Sanitary Inspector's and Surveyor's Department :**

E. J. Bevan.

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITION OF THE AREA.

Area (in Acres), 61,565.
Population (Registrar General Return), 16,800.

| | |
|---|---|
| No. of Inhabited Houses | 4,109 |
| Commercial Premises — | 177 |
| Industrial Premises — | 25 |
| Miscellaneous — | 115 |
| Total | 4,426 |

### BYE-LAWS IN FORCE IN THE AREA.

Bye-laws made by the Council are now in force with regard to the following subjects :—

| | |
|---|---|
| New Streets | Common Lodging Houses |
| New Buildings | Dust Bins |
| Water Supplies | Common Lands |

Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the open air. (Draft Bye-Laws submitted to Ministry of Health for approval.

Birth Rate Per 1,000 Population

| Year | Stone R.D. | Eng. & Wales |
|---|---|---|
| 1949 | 16.01 | 16.7 |
| 1948 | 15.3 | 17.9 |
| 1947 | 17.2 | 20.5 |

Still Birth Rate Per 1,000 Population.

| Year | Stone R.D. | Eng. & Wales |
|---|---|---|
| 1949 | 0.53 | 0.39 |
| 1948 | 0.35 | 0.42 |
| 1947 | 0.35 | 0.50 |

| | 1949 | | | 1948 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Live Births 260 | Live Births | M. | F. | Live Births | M. | F. | Total Live Births 266 |
| Total Still Births 9 | Total | 126 | 134 | Total | 128 | 138 | Total Still Births 6 |
| | Legit. | 121 | 132 | Legit. | 118 | 134 | |
| | Illegit. | 5 | 2 | Illegit. | 10 | 4 | |
| Total Births 269 | Still Births | | | Still Births | | | Total Births 272 |
| | Total | 6 | 3 | Total | 2 | 0 | |
| | Legit. | 6 | 3 | Legit. | 2 | 0 | |
| | Illegit. | 0 | 0 | Illegit. | 0 | 0 | |
| Infant Death Rate under 12 months per 1000 live births | Deaths under 12 months | | | Deaths under 12 Months | | | Infant Death Rate under 12 months per 1000 live births |
| Stone R.D. 34.6 | Total | 6 | 4 | Total | 4 | 2 | Stone R.D. 26 |
| Eng. & Wales 32 | Legit. | 6 | 4 | Legit. | 4 | 2 | Eng. & Wales 34 |
| | Illegit. | 0 | 0 | Illegit. | 0 | 0 | |

Actual Excess of Live Births over Deaths 260—168 = 92

| Death Rate per 1,000 Population | Stone R.D. | Eng, & Wales |
|---|---|---|
| Year 1949 | 10.7 | 11.7 |
| Year 1948 | 7.8 | 10.8 |

## INFECTIOUS AND NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

The following table shows the numbers of infectious and notifiable diseases sent in by Medical Practitioners during the year.

| Disease | Ist Qr. | 2nd Qr. | 3rd Qr. | 4th Qr. | Total | 1948 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Scarlet Fever ... | 8 | 3 | — | 7 | 18 | 21 |
| Whooping Cough | 13 | 17 | 5 | — | 35 | 18 |
| Measles ... ... | 23 | 74 | 33 | 1 | 131 | 67 |
| Diphtheria ... | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — |
| Pneumonia ... | 4 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 10 | 10 |
| Erysipelas ... | 1 | 1 | 2 | — | 4 | 1 |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 1 | 1 | — | — | 2 | 1 |

There were six deaths from Infectious and Notifiable Diseases, these being from Pneumonia.

The one case of Diphtheria was notified in December 1949, this being the first case to be notified since November, 1945.

## Food Poisoning.

| Total No. of Outbreaks. | No. of Cases. | No. of Deaths. | Organisms or other agents responsible with number of outbreaks of each. | Foods involved with number of outbreaks of each. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |

| Analysis of causes of Deaths. | Male | Female | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Typhoid and Paratyphoid | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cerebro Spinal Fever | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Scarlet Fever | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Whooping Cough | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Diphtheria | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tuberculosis, Respiratory | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Tuberculosis, other forms | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Syphilitic Diseases | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Influenza | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| Measles | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Acute Poliomyelitis and Encephalitis | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cancer (all sites) | 12 | 7 | 19 |
| Diabetes | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Intracranial Vascular Lesions | 4 | 11 | 15 |
| Heart Diseases | 27 | 26 | 53 |
| Other Circulatory Diseases | 3 | 5 | 8 |
| Bronchitis | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| Pneumonia | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| Other Respiratory Diseases | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Diarrhoea under two years of age | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Appendicitis | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Digestive Diseases | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nephritis | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Maternal Causes | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Premature Birth | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| Birth Injuries, Malformation | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Suicide | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Road Accidents | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Other violent causes | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| All other causes | 10 | 10 | 20 |
| | 83 | 85 | 168 |

| Tuberculosis | 1949 | | | | Total | 1948 | | | | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Pulmonary | | Non Pulmonary | | | Pulmonary | | Non Pulmonary | | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | | M. | F. | M. | F. | |
| Number on Register | 40 | 41 | 10 | 13 | 104 | 34 | 41 | 8 | 13 | 96 |
| New Cases | 6 | 1 | 2 | - | 9 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 12 |
| Removed from Register | - | 1 | - | - | - | | | | | |

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

The names of the staff of the Public Health Department are set out on page 1. No changes have taken place during the past year.

### Laboratory Facilities.

### Bacteriological and Chemical Examination of Water.

The total number of samples taken during the year for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis is 90. Details are as follows :

Bacteriological examination of water supplies :—

| | |
|---|---|
| Satisfactory .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 27 |
| Unsatisfactory .. .. .. .. .. .. | 23 |

Chemical examination of water supplies :—

| | |
|---|---|
| Satisfactory .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 31 |
| Unsatisfactory .. .. .. .. .. .. | 9 |

These samples are, of course, taken from the Council's own Public supplies together with private supplies, springs and wells. Progress is still being maintained where existing pump and well supplies are polluted in connecting such premises served by these water supplies, to the public mains.

### Water Supplies

The question of serving premises with a piped supply of water in the Fulford, Moss Gate, Hilderstone, Moddershall, Stone Heath, Milwich Heath and Garshall Green Areas is still a major problem. A similar state of affairs exists in the Fair Oak, Greatwood Heath and Walk Mill districts.

However, it is anticipated that the major part of the area in the north of the district will be supplied by the Staffordshire Potteries Water Board in the near future.

With regard to the Fair Oak, Greatwood Heath and Walk Mill areas, these have been included in the Eccleshall Extension Scheme and it is anticipated that a supply would be afforded to these areas by the end of 1950.

The question of supplying water to the village of Sandon has been reviewed in the light that there is a possibility of obtaining a supply to this district from the Stafford Borough Water Main situated at Hopton Heath.

A small scheme was prepared to serve the village of Milwich by means of enlarging the existing reservoir, and it is hoped that approval will be given to this scheme in the near future.

The supply to the village of Yarnfield, which is served by means of five stand pipes, has been considered unsatisfactory for the needs of this village for some considerable time, and as a result detailed plans were prepared in order that water could be taken into the houses by means of pipes. This scheme has been submitted to the Staffordshire Potteries Water Board for their consideration.

### Drainage and Sewerage

The whole of the Barlaston Sewerage Scheme was completed in 1949 and the question of picking up the individual properties within the Tittensor and Barlaston Districts has been proceeded with. This scheme was put into operation in September, 1949, and by the end of the year 37 properties had been connected to the new sewerage system, and it is anticipated by the end of 1950 that the whole of the premises which can be served by this scheme will be connected to the sewerage system in this area.

As a result of serious nuisance caused by the disposal of sewage from the 20 houses situated on the west side of Sandon Road, Meir Heath, with the co-operation of the City of Stoke-on-Trent Corporation, a sewer was laid to serve these premises in question and connected to the City's main sewer which is situated on the boundary of the Stone Rural District and the City of Stoke-on-Trent area.

Strong representations were made by the inhabitants of the villages of Norton Bridge, Saverley Green, Fulford and Yarnfield regarding sewage disposal. Careful consideration was given to the complaints by the Council, and it was decided that sewage schemes should be prepared for these villages. The schemes are in course of preparation and will in due course be submitted to the Ministry of Health for consideration.

### Public Cleansing

As referred to in my previous report, the Council now undertake the collection of household refuse from the whole of the Stone Rural District with the exception of the township of Eccleshall. Consideration is being given by the Council to terminate the collection from the township of Eccleshall by contract, as it was felt that the time was ripe for the Council to undertake the collection of refuse from Eccleshall, together with the collection of night soil, by direct labour. Progress is still being maintained with regard to the conversion of earth closets into water closets in the Eccleshall District.

### Camping Sites

During the year 1949 six licences were granted and one refused under Section 269 of the Public Health Act 1936. Details of these licences issued by Parishes are shown as follows:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Barlaston | 2 |
| Fulford | 1 |
| Stone Rural | 2 |
| Swynnerton | 1 |
| Stone Rural | 1 Refused |

No unauthorised camping has taken place in the district as far as can be ascertained.

There are two authorised camping sites, namely the Boys' Scouts Camp at Kibblestone and the Girls Training Corps Camp at Cotwalton.

### Swimming Baths and Pools.

There is only one Public Swimming Bath in the district. This bath is situated within the Trentham Gardens. Routine samples have been taken from the Bath and all samples confirm that the water is satisfactory for drinking and bathing.

### Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Further routine inspections have been carried out under the Shops Act 1912-1934 and during the year 57 inspections have been made.

**Offices.** No action has been necessary under this heading.

**Eradication of Bed Bugs.** No action has been necessary under this heading but two premises have been cleansed as a result of infestation with fleas.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### Slaughter Houses.

All animals, the food of which is intended for human consumption are slaughtered at the Ministry of Food Central Slaughter House at Stone. Meat inspection, therefore, is carried out by the Stone Urban District Council.

### Knacker Yards.

There are three licensed Knackers' Yards still in operation within the Stone Rural District.

### Bakehouses.

There are five Bakehouses (other than basement bakehouses) situated within the district. 14 inspections have been made of the premises and were found to comply with the Factories Act 1937 and the Food and Drugs Act 1938.

**Ice-Cream.** Routine inspections have been carried out in respect of premises used for the sale and manufacture of Ice-cream and during the year three additional premises have now been licensed for the sale of pre-packed ices only, and one for the manufacture of ice-cream. As a point of interest it is pointed out that the premises which are registered for the manufacture of ice-cream is a factory where ice-cream is being produced under ideal conditions both as regards cleanliness and the very latest equipment. Samples of ice-cream have been taken from time to time and the majority of the samples have fallen in grade 1 and 2 with the exception of one case where this was classified as grade 3. As a result of this, investigations were made and an improvement from this particular source was obtained.

### Petroleum Acts

During the past year 58 Petroleum Licences were issued. These licences represent a total capacity of 53,970 gallons.

### Atmospheric Pollution

A further separate Report on Atmospheric Pollution in connection with the Generating Station at Meaford will be presented when additional data has been collected.

## HOUSING.

### Number of Houses erected during the year.

1. By the Local Authority .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 77
2. By other Local Authorities .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 2*
3. By Private Development .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 6

* These two houses were erected by the Staffordshire County Council at Rough Close.

The total number of houses owned by the Council is now 341. The distribution of new houses erected and under construction during 1949 by parishes is tabulated below ;

| Parish | Council Houses | | Private Enterprise | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Completed | Under Construction | Completed | Under Construction |
| Barlaston .. .. .. .. | 50 | 38 | 1 | — |
| Chebsey .. .. .. .. .. | — | 6 | — | — |
| Eccleshall .. .. .. .. | 6 | 3 | — | 5 |
| Fulford .. .. .. .. .. | 17 | — | 2 | 2 |
| Hilderstone .. .. .. .. | — | — | — | — |
| Milwich .. .. .. .. | — | — | — | — |
| Sandon .. .. .. .. .. | — | — | — | — |
| Standon .. .. .. .. | — | — | — | — |
| Stone Rural .. .. .. .. | 4 | 8 | 3 | 4 |
| Swynnerton .. .. .. .. | — | 10 | — | — |

It will be seen from the above figures that the Council erected 77 houses during the year, with a further 62 houses under construction. The Council can feel justly proud of their achievement in this direction, particularly when one reviews the programme of other similar authorities in the County, details of which are given below.

| Name of Local Authority | Estimated Population | Rateable Value | Council Houses Erected Since Cessation of Hostilities | Council Houses Under Construction | Total | No. of Houses Erected or in Course of Erection per 1,000 Population |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Stone R.D.C. ... | 16,800 | £109,639 | 262 | 74 | 336 | 20.0 |
| Stone U.D.C. ... | 8,130 | £41,410 | 138 | 20 | 158 | 19.4 |
| Cheadle R.D.C. ... | 32,430 | £108,780 | 332 | 88 | 420 | 12.9 |
| Cannock R.D.C. ... | 24,430 | £102,644 | 172 | 44 | 216 | 8.8 |
| Leek R.D.C. ... ... | 16,570 | £59,523 | 26 | 16 | 42 | 2.5 |
| Leek U.D.C. ... ... | 19,710 | £104,254 | 159 | 52 | 211 | 10.7 |
| Lichfield R.D.C. ... | 38,760 | £186,210 | 408 | 76 | 484 | 12.4 |
| Newcastle R.D.C. ... | 16,780 | £56,620 | 188 | 54 | 242 | 14.4 |
| Seisdon R.D.C. ... | 21,990 | £110,636 | 114 | 20 | 134 | 6.1 |
| Stafford R.D.C. ... | 15,160 | £74,266 | 98 | 26 | 124 | 8.1 |
| Tutbury R.D.C. ... | 14,880 | £82,247 | 171 | 39 | 210 | 14.1 |
| Uttoxeter R.D.C. ... | 10,950 | £44,241 | 118 | 4 | 122 | 11.1 |
| Uttoxeter U.D.C. ... | 7,440 | £38,010 | 118 | 16 | 134 | 18.0 |

N.B. These figures are based on the Returns issued by the Registrar General and the Ministry of Health.

### Inspection of dwelling houses during the year 1949.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | (*a*) | Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 47 |
| | (*b*) | Number of inspections made for the purpose .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 183 |
| 2. | (*a*) | Number of dwelling houses (included under the sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 92 |
| | (*b*) | Number of inspections made for the purpose .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 127 |
| 3. | | Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 8 |
| 4. | | Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .. .. .. .. .. .. | 29 |

### Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notice.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 30

### Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .. .. 8

Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :

By owners .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 3

By local Authority in default of owners .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. Nil

### Proceedings under Public Health acts.

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 68

Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :

By owners .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 35

By Local Authorities after default of owners .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 4

### Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .. .. .. 1

Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .. .. .. .. 1

### Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 1

Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .. .. .. . .. .. Nil

### Administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

| | Inspections | Written Notices | Prosecutions |
|---|---|---|---|
| Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by L.A. | 63 | 4 | Nil |
| Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the L.A. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | 38 | 2 | Nil |
| Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the L.A. .. | 12 | Nil | Nil |

| | No. of Defects. Found | Remedied |
|---|---|---|
| Defects found in Factories. Want of cleanliness .. .. .. .. | 2 | 2 |
| Sanitary Conveniences. Unsuitable or defective .. .. .. .. | 0 | 0 |

## RODENT CONTROL

The Council employ a full-time Rodent Operative, and details of inspection made together with the number of takes and premises found free from infestation are tabulated below:

No. of Inspections Made:

| | |
|---|---|
| Dwelling Houses | 212 |
| Business Premises | 38 |
| Other Premises | 57 |
| Sewage Works | 15 |
| Refuse Tips | 33 |
| Total | 355 |

| | |
|---|---|
| No. of Minor Infestations Found | 139 |
| No. of Major Infestations Found | 30 |
| No. Found Clear | 86 |

### Table showing Water Supplies by Parishes

| Parish | No. of Houses | Staffs. P.W.B. | Stone U.D.C. | Newcastle R.D.C. | Stone R.D.C. | Private Supply | Standpipe Supply |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barlaston .. .. | 567 | 550 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Chebsey .. .. | 136 | — | — | — | 102 | — | — |
| Eccleshall .. .. | 1,056 | 75 | — | 7 | 389 | 27 | 28 |
| Fulford .. .. | 576 | 509 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Hilderstone .. .. | 103 | — | — | — | — | 8 | — |
| Milwich .. .. | 122 | — | — | — | 7 | — | — |
| Sandon .. .. | 158 | — | — | — | — | 133 | — |
| Standon .. .. | 198 | 98 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Stone Rural .. .. | 567 | 412 | 92 | — | — | 8 | — |
| Swynnerton .. .. | 655 | 636 | — | — | — | 6 | — |

### Milk Production.
### Classification of Farms in Parishes.

| Parish | Non-designated | Accredited | T.T. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Barlaston .. .. .. | 22 | 20 | 5 |
| Chebsey .. .. .. | 8 | 11 | — |
| Eccleshall .. .. .. | 105 | 70 | 8 |
| Fulford .. .. .. | 32 | 17 | 1 |
| Hilderstone .. .. .. | 19 | 18 | — |
| Milwich .. .. .. | 38 | 20 | 2 |
| Sandon .. .. .. .. | 29 | 19 | 3 |
| Standon .. .. .. | 8 | 10 | — |
| Stone Rural .. .. | 32 | 40 | 9 |
| Swynnerton .. .. .. | 38 | 12 | 5 |
| Totals .. .. | 331 | 237 | 33 |